

**A. CLASSIFICATION OF SUBJECT MATTER**  
IPC 7 G06F3/00

According to International Patent Classification (IPC) or to both national classification and IPC

**B. FIELDS SEARCHED**

Minimum documentation searched (classification system followed by classification symbols)  
IPC 7 G06F

Documentation searched other than minimum documentation to the extent that such documents are included in the fields searched

Electronic data base consulted during the international search (name of data base and, where practical, search terms used)

EPO-Internal, PAJ, WPI Data

**C. DOCUMENTS CONSIDERED TO BE RELEVANT**

Category *	Citation of document, with indication, where appropriate, of the relevant passages	Relevant to claim No.
X	US 2002/080494 A1 (MEINE ROBERT K) 27 June 2002 (2002-06-27)  the whole document	1-4, 10-16, 21-24
Y		5-9, 17-20
Y	US 6 215 890 B1 (MATSUO HIDEAKI ET AL) 10 April 2001 (2001-04-10) column 6, line 54 - column 7, line 49	5-8, 17-19
Y	US 6 176 782 B1 (LYONS DAMIAN M ET AL) 23 January 2001 (2001-01-23) abstract column 5, line 4 - line 22	9,20

☐ Further documents are listed in the continuation of box C.

☒ Patent family members are listed in annex.

\* Special categories of cited documents :

- \*A\* document defining the general state of the art which is not considered to be of particular relevance
- \*E\* earlier document but published on or after the international filing date
- \*L\* document which may throw doubts on priority claim(s) or which is cited to establish the publication date of another citation or other special reason (as specified)
- \*O\* document referring to an oral disclosure, use, exhibition or other means
- \*P\* document published prior to the international filing date but later than the priority date claimed

- \*T\* later document published after the international filing date or priority date and not in conflict with the application but cited to understand the principle or theory underlying the invention
- \*X\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered novel or cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is taken alone
- \*Y\* document of particular relevance; the claimed invention cannot be considered to involve an inventive step when the document is combined with one or more other such documents, such combination being obvious to a person skilled in the art.
- \*&\* document member of the same patent family

Date of the actual completion of the international search

26 April 2005

Date of mailing of the international search report

04/05/2005

Name and mailing address of the ISA

European Patent Office, P.B. 5818 Patentlaan 2  
NL - 2280 HV Rijswijk  
Tel. (+31-70) 340-2040, Tx. 31 651 epo nl,  
Fax: (+31-70) 340-3016

Authorized officer

Davenport, K

Patent document cited in search report	Publication date	Patent family member(s)	Publication date
US 2002080494	A1	27-06-2002	NONE
US 6215890	B1	10-04-2001	CN 1218936 A ,C 09-06-1999 EP 0905644 A2 31-03-1999 JP 11174948 A 02-07-1999 US 6212046 B1 03-04-2001
US 6176782	B1	23-01-2001	DE 69816789 D1 04-09-2003 DE 69816789 T2 27-05-2004 EP 0961965 A2 08-12-1999 WO 9932959 A2 01-07-1999 JP 2001513244 T 28-08-2001 US 6283860 B1 04-09-2001